IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Amended)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

imaging means for obtaining an image;

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; and

selection means for selecting image data [from said data base which corresponds to the image obtained by said imaging means, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the current position location detected by said location detection means, and said designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information] corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; and

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images.

2.   (Amended)   [An] The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reception means for receiving the image data [and the designation information] and at least the corresponding location data via a computer network.

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3. (Amended) [An] <u>The</u> information retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reception means has a portable telephone function and is connected to said computer network via a telephone line.

4. (Amended) [An] <u>The</u> information retrieval apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the [designation information] <u>corresponding location data</u> is a URL for specifying information stored in a server of a world wide web build up on the Internet.

5. (Amended) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by <u>an</u> information retrieval apparatus from a <u>remote</u> data base [which contains registration data including position data, image data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], <u>said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data,</u> comprising the steps of:

obtaining an image;

detecting the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

selecting image data from said data base [which corresponds to the image obtained, said image data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location of the information retrieval apparatus, and designation information corresponding to said image data for retrieving said additional information] <u>corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; and</u>

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comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images.

6.   (Twice Amended)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base [which contains registration data including at least position data and designation information for retrieval of additional information], said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

imaging means for obtaining an image;

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; [and]

selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

first receiving means for receiving said designation information corresponding to said selected data for retrieving said additional information, said selected data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

checking means for checking whether user's manual operation be is needed to acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information;

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second receiving means for receiving additional information based on the

designation information; and

displaying means for displaying said additional information.

[and

selection means for selecting data from said data base which corresponds to said

detected current position location of said information retrieval apparatus, said selected data

having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position

location, said designation information corresponding to said selected data for retrieving said

additional information.]

7.   (New)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving

information from a remote data base, said data base comprising image information for a plurality

of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said

information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the

data base;

reception means for receiving said image data corresponding to said position data

representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

imaging means for obtaining an image;

selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more

images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said

current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

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comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images;

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

8.   (New)   An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

reception means for receiving said image data corresponding to said position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

imaging means for obtaining image;

selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images;

displaying means for displaying said received image after performing a matching process using said obtained image.

9. (New)　　An information retrieval method for retrieving information from a remote data base, said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

receiving said image data corresponding to said position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

obtaining an image;

selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images;

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

10. (New)　　An information retrieval method for retrieving information from a remote data base, said data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

receiving said image data corresponding to said position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

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obtaining an image;

selection means for selecting image data corresponding to each of one or more images from said data base in which sent stored corresponding location data corresponds to said current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image data of said one or more selected images;

displaying said received image after performance of a matching process using said obtained image.

11. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

12. (New) The information retrieval method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

13. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

14. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

15. (New) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 8, wherein when said comparison means determines one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

16. (New) The information retrieval method according to claim 9, wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.

17. (New) The information retrieval method according to claim 10, wherein when it is determined that one of said selected images matches said obtained image, additional information corresponding to said one of said selected images is provided.